

Senate Study Bill 3065

SENATE FILE _____
BY (PROPOSED COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION BILL BY
CO=CHAIRPERSON McKINLEY)

Passed Senate, Date _____ Passed House, Date _____
Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____ Vote: Ayes _____ Nays _____
Approved _____

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the minimum hours of instructional school time
2 for grades one through twelve for school districts, charter
3 schools, and accredited nonpublic schools.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:
5 TLSB 5616XK 81
6 kh/je/5

PAG LIN

1 1 Section 1. Section 256.7, subsection 19, Code Supplement
1 2 2005, is amended by striking the subsection.
1 3 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, subsection 5, Code 2005, is
1 4 amended to read as follows:
1 5 5. A charter school shall provide instruction for at least
1 6 the number of ~~days~~ hours required by section 279.10,
1 7 subsection 1, ~~or shall provide at least the equivalent number~~
~~1 8 of total hours.~~
1 9 Sec. 3. Section 279.10, subsections 1 and 2, Code 2005,
1 10 are amended to read as follows:
1 11 1. ~~a.~~ The school year shall begin on the first day of
1 12 July and each regularly established elementary and secondary
1 13 school shall begin no sooner than a day during the calendar
1 14 week in which the first day of September falls but no later
1 15 than the first Monday in December. However, if the first day
1 16 of September falls on a Sunday, school may begin on a day
1 17 during the calendar week which immediately precedes the first
1 18 day of September. ~~School shall continue for at least one~~
~~1 19 hundred eighty days, except as provided in subsection 3, and~~
1 20 may be maintained during the entire calendar year. ~~However,~~
~~1 21 if the board of directors of a district extends the school~~
~~1 22 calendar because inclement weather caused the district to~~
~~1 23 temporarily close school during the regular school calendar,~~
~~1 24 the district may excuse a graduating senior who has met~~
~~1 25 district or school requirements for graduation from attendance~~
~~1 26 during the extended school calendar. A school corporation may~~
1 27 begin employment of personnel for in-service training and
1 28 development purposes before the date to begin elementary and
1 29 secondary school.
1 30 b. The minimum hours of instructional school time in a
1 31 school year for grades one through twelve shall be as follows:
1 32 (1) For the school year beginning July 1, 2006, nine
1 33 hundred ninety hours.
1 34 (2) For the school year beginning July 1, 2007, one
1 35 thousand eighty hours.
2 1 (3) For the school year beginning July 1, 2008, and each
2 2 succeeding school year, one thousand two hundred sixty hours.
2 3 The hours of instructional time may include not more than
2 4 one hour per school day for recess and lunch for grades one
2 5 through six and not more than one-half hour per school day for
2 6 lunch for grades seven through twelve.
2 7 A school district seeking to reduce the number of
2 8 instruction hours in its school calendar that exceed the
2 9 minimum hours of instructional time required pursuant to
2 10 subparagraph (2) or (3) may submit a request to the director
2 11 of the department of education, and the director may grant the
2 12 request at the director's discretion.
2 13 2. The board of directors shall hold a public hearing on
2 14 any ~~proposal~~ request authorized under subsection 4 prior to
2 15 submitting it to the department of education for approval.

2 16 Sec. 4. Section 279.10, subsection 3, Code 2005, is
2 17 amended by striking the subsection.
2 18 Sec. 5. Section 256.20, Code 2005, is repealed.
2 19 Sec. 6. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance
2 20 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring
2 21 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall
2 22 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid
2 23 received by the school district under section 257.16. This
2 24 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed
2 25 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section
2 26 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall be
2 27 necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and
2 28 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

2 29 EXPLANATION

2 30 This bill converts the current 180-day school calendar to a
2 31 required 990 hours of instructional school time in FY 2006=
2 32 2007, with a requirement that the school calendar include
2 33 1,080 hours of instructional time in FY 2007=2008, and 1,260
2 34 hours of instructional time in FY 2008=2009 and each year
2 35 thereafter.

3 1 The bill eliminates a provision directing the state board
3 2 of education to define the minimum school day as a day
3 3 consisting of 5.5 hours of instructional time for grades 1=12,
3 4 and provisions that allow the minimum hours to include passing
3 5 time between classes, time spent on parent=teacher
3 6 conferences, and early dismissals or late arrivals for
3 7 inclement weather or emergency health factors. The bill
3 8 allows the minimum hours to include time for lunch, and, for
3 9 elementary grades, time for recess.

3 10 The bill authorizes the director of the department to grant
3 11 a school district's request to reduce the number of
3 12 instructional hours in its school calendar if the school is
3 13 exceeding the minimum hours of instructional time required in
3 14 FY 2007=2008 or FY 2008=2009 and in succeeding school years.

3 15 The bill also eliminates a Code provision that allows the
3 16 board of directors of a school district to request approval
3 17 from the department of education for a pilot program for an
3 18 innovative school year which provides for instructional time
3 19 equivalent to the current 180-day requirement converted to
3 20 hours.

3 21 The bill also eliminates a Code provision that authorized
3 22 school districts to request approval from the state board of
3 23 education for a pilot project for a year-round three-semester
3 24 school year.

3 25 The bill also specifies that a school district must hold a
3 26 public hearing on a request to change the school start date
3 27 prior to submitting the request to the department.

3 28 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code
3 29 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of any
3 30 state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school
3 31 district from state school foundation aid received by the
3 32 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification
3 33 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state
3 34 mandate funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2.
3 35 The inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate
4 1 the requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any
4 2 state mandates included in the bill.

4 3 LSB 5616XK 81

4 4 kh:rj/je/5